

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-01 MMO-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6121

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY CH US

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITUATION UPDATE

REF: PEKING 1479

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER NOTIFICATION FROM MFA SINCE THE ONE OF AUGUST 1 REPORTED REFTEL. HOWEVER, CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON AUGUST 3 TOOK INITIATIVE IN SUPPLYING TENTS TO A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THAT DID NOT ALREADY HAVE THEM. AN OLIVE-DRAB TENT THAT COULD SLEEP EIGHT/TEN ADULTS NOW STANDS IN FRONT OF THE USLO RESIDENCE; TWO OTHER TENTS HAVN NOT YET BEEN PUT UP.
2. THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE CITY REMAINS UNCHANGED. SCREENED-IN OUTDOOR LATRINES HAVE APPEARED IN A NUMBER OF NEIGHBORHOODS, EASING CONCERNS ABOUT ONE POTENTIAL HEALTH PROBLEM IF SANITATION MEASURES OF THIS KIND WERE NOT TAKEN.
3. THE CENTRAL HALL OF THEPEKING RAILWAY STATION HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR THE PAST DAY OR TWO (ACCESS HAD BEEN RESTRICTED SINCE SOON AFTER THE JULY 28 QUAKE). THIS IS SIMPLY A SAFETY PRECAUTION; PASSENGER TRAIN TRAFFIC TO AND FROM THE STATION APPARENTLY REMAINS NORMAL.

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4. THE FOREIGN STUDENT TRIP TO KWEILIN MENTIONED IN REFTTEL IS PART OF A THIRTY-DAY TOUR OF SOUTH CHINA ARRANGED FOR ALL UNIVERSITY LEVEL FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO HAD NOT ALREADY LEFT PEKING.

5. MEASURES TO KEEP FOREIGN VISITORS FROM COMING TO PEKING CONTINUE. OF SOME EIGHTY PASSENGERS ON A FLIGHT FROM JAPAN YESTERDAY, MANY OF WHOM HAD EXPECTED TO COME TO PEKING, ALL BUT TWO WERE OBLIGED TO GET OFF IN SHANGHAI. ONE OF THE TWO PERMITTED TO COME ON TO PEKING WAS A DIPLOMATIC COURIER.

6. NEWS CONCERNING OTHER QUAKE-AFFECTED AREAS. A PRC OFFICIAL TOLD A WESTERN EMBASSY THIS WEEK THAT FACILITIES IN HSINKANG HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY DAMAGED, BUT THE PORT WOULD OPEN "SOON." ANOTHER PRC OFFICIAL TOLD THE JAPANESE EMBASSY THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE IN THE TANGHSAN AREA, "FORTUNATELY THE UNDERGROUND MINES SUFFERED VERY LITTLE DAMAGE." (NCNA AUGUST 1 HAD REPORTED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MINERS WHO WERE UNDERGROUND AT THE TIME OF THE QUAKE REACHED THE SURFACE SAFELY.)
GATES

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